tion of U. N. Observed, in the operation of security forces there;

(b) what has been the response to these demands; and

(c) whether the UN Observers have already overstayed their term, if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure withdrawal of the U. N. observers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Government has not come across any instances of the UN Observers having contacts with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) The UN Military Observers Group was established specifically with reference to the old 1949 ceasefire line. They have not been entrusted with any responsibilities with regard to the present Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Categories kept beyond the 27 per cent reservation

1385. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what are the categories of technical, scientific, medical or engineering posts in different departments of central Govern ment, kept beyond the 27 per cent reser vation under the Mandal Commission re port, department-wise; and

(b) what percentage of the total number . do they constitute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMHLAI. SUMAN): (a) and (b) The Office Memorandum issued on 13th August, 1990 by the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances & Pensions (Deptt. of Personnel & Training) specifies that the reservation of 27 per cent for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes would be applicable to *civil* posts and services under the Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings and Central financial insti- tutions, including public sector banks.

The said Office Memorandum, has been challenged through various writ petitions now being heard by a Constitution Bench ~ of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has, *inter alia* directed that no steps be taken to implement the order of 13th August, 1990 except the identification of the castes to be benefited. Government is awaiting the verdict of the Supreme Court.

Population of OBCs

1386. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what are the latest figures showing the population of OBCs in different States and Union Territories and the country as whole, and what percentage of the total population thereof do they constitute; and

(b) when and how these population figures were compiled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) Systematic Castewise enumeration of population had been introduced oy the Registrar General of India in 1881 but had been discontinued after 1931 csmsus.

In view of above, the figures of caste-wise population including of castes included as OBCs in the Second Backward Classes Commission (Mandal Commission) Report after 1931 are not available.

The Mandal Commission had assumed that *inter-se* growth rate of population of various Castes/communities and religious groups over the last half a century had remained more or less the same and accordingly the Commission, based on 1931 census, had worked out the percentage of OBCs vis-a-vis total population of the country.

On above presumption, the Mandal Commission has projected the population of OBCs as 52 per cent of the total population.